**General Education Implementation Committee**

**Review of Gen Ed Categories and Credit Hour Requirements**

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| **Current Gen Ed Category** | **Proposed New Name** | **Current Wording for Requirements**  <https://undergrad.catalog.tntech.edu/ugrequirements/gened> |
| Mathematics | Quantitative Reasoning and Analysis | 3 hours |
| Humanities/Fine Arts | Humanities and Cultural Expression | 9 hours   * At least one literature course, selected from those marked with an asterisk (\*), must be included in the 9 hours |
| History | Historical Foundations | 6 hours |
| Social Behavioral Sciences | Social and Behavioral Sciences | 6 hours |
| Communication | Communication\* | 9 hours   * English Composition (6 hours) * English oral presentational communication (3 hours) |
| Natural Sciences | Scientific Reasoning | 8 hours |
|  | Digital Literacy |  |
|  |  | **Total: 41 hours** |

\*the Department of Communication is changing its name to Communication & Media, so no category is named the same as a department

We are charged with ensuring hours are available for the new “Digital Literacy” Category. To that end, the following tables offer three proposals.

**Review of Gen Ed Categories and Credit Hour Requirements: Proposal 1**

* Remove the literature requirement from the Humanities and Cultural Expression Category (allowing students more choice/flexibility) but leave the ENGL courses among the options and make the hours requirement 6 hours

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| **Current Gen Ed Category** | **Proposed New Name** | **Proposal 1** |
| Mathematics | Quantitative Reasoning and Analysis | 3 hours |
| Humanities/Fine Arts | Humanities and Cultural Expression | 6 hours  Must take a 3-credit hour course to fulfill the category requirement, excluding introductory foreign language courses. |
| History | Historical Foundations | 6 hours |
| Social Behavioral Sciences | Social and Behavioral Sciences | 6 hours |
| Communication | Communication\* | 9 hours   * English Composition (6 hours) * English oral presentational communication (3 hours) |
| Natural Sciences | Scientific Reasoning | 8 hours |
|  | Digital Literacy | 3 hours |
|  |  | **Total: 41 hours** |

Need help with this wording. SACSCOC designates that introductory foreign language courses cannot be the “one course designated to fulfill the humanities/fine arts requirement.” Other wording options: (1) Must take one course that is not introductory foreign language, (2) Only 3 hours can come from introductory language courses, (3) All 6 hours cannot come from introductory language courses, (4) Only one course from those with an asterisk may be taken in this category.

**Pros:**

* This category is in all PoS for all majors and spans many different departments’ offerings, so enrollment impact (if any) is distributed across units

**Cons:**

* Little flexibility in PoS for different majors

**Review of Gen Ed Categories and Credit Hour Requirements: Proposal 2**

* Change language across all categories to “minimum”
* Remove the literature requirement from the Humanities and Cultural Expression Category (allowing students more choice/flexibility) but leave the ENGL courses among the options
* Lower required hours in several categories to provide more flexible choices for varying majors
* Students still take 41 total hours, but have 10 hours of choice across categories (if permitted in PoS)

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| **Current Gen Ed Category** | **Proposed New Name** | **Proposal 2** |
| Mathematics | Quantitative Reasoning and Analysis | Minimum: 3 hours |
| Humanities/Fine Arts | Humanities and Cultural Expression | Minimum: 6 hours  Must take a 3-credit hour course to fulfill the category requirement, excluding introductory foreign language courses. |
| History | Historical Foundations | Minimum: 3 hours |
| Social Behavioral Sciences | Social and Behavioral Sciences | Minimum: 6 hours |
| Communication | Communication\* | Minimum: 6 hours   * English Composition (minimum 3 hours) * English oral presentational communication (minimum 3 hours) |
| Natural Sciences | Scientific Reasoning | Minimum: 4 hours |
|  | Digital Literacy | Minimum: 3 hours |
|  |  | **Total: 41 hours (31 hours dictated; other 10 hours flexible)** |

**Pros**:

* More flexibility in PoS for different majors to vary the Gen Ed requirements
* Enrollment impacts (if any) are distributed across multiple units

**Cons:**

* Tennessee Tech will need to obtain delegated authority from the Board of Trustees to exempt students from the Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-7-110 requirement (six hours of American History) if they have successfully completed an American History course in high school, as many other Tennessee universities (and select TTU programs) have done.

**Review of Gen Ed Categories and Credit Hour Requirements: Proposal 3**

* Change language across all categories to reflect range of hours (where applicable) – this option is like Proposal 2 but “dictates” which categories you can choose from to build the additional 10 hours

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| **Current Gen Ed Category** | **Proposed New Name** | **Proposal 3** |
| Mathematics | Quantitative Reasoning and Analysis | 3 hours |
| Humanities/Fine Arts | Humanities and Cultural Expression | 6 to 9 hours  Must take a 3-credit hour course to fulfill the category requirement, excluding introductory foreign language courses. |
| History | Historical Foundations | 3 to 6 hours |
| Social Behavioral Sciences | Social and Behavioral Sciences | 6 to 9 hours |
| Communication | Communication\* | 6 to 9 hours   * English Composition (minimum 3 hours) * English oral presentational communication (minimum 3 hours) |
| Natural Sciences | Scientific Reasoning | 4 to 8 hours |
|  | Digital Literacy | 3 to 6 hours |
|  |  | **Total: 41 hours (31 hours minimum; other 10 hours flexible but limited to specific categories)** |

**Pros:**

* More flexibility in PoS for different majors to vary the Gen Ed requirements
* Enrollment impacts (if any) are distributed across multiple units

**Cons:**

* Tennessee Tech will need to obtain delegated authority from the Board of Trustees to exempt students from the Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-7-110 requirement (six hours of American History) if they have successfully completed an American History course in high school, as many other Tennessee universities (and select TTU programs) have done.

**Review of Gen Ed Categories and Credit Hour Requirements: Proposal 4**

* Change language across all categories to reflect range of hours (where applicable) – this option is like Proposal 3 except History is maintained at 6 hours (so no waiver/exemption from legislation is required)
* 7 hours of flexibility instead of 10 hours.

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| **Current Gen Ed Category** | **Proposed New Name** | **Proposal 4** |
| Mathematics | Quantitative Reasoning and Analysis | 3 hours |
| Humanities/Fine Arts | Humanities and Cultural Expression | 6 to 9 hours  Must take one course that is not introductory foreign language. |
| History | Historical Foundations | 6 hours |
| Social Behavioral Sciences | Social and Behavioral Sciences | 6 to 9 hours |
| Communication | Communication\* | 6 to 9 hours   * English Composition (minimum 3 hours) * English oral presentational communication (minimum 3 hours) |
| Natural Sciences | Scientific Reasoning | 4 to 8 hours |
|  | Digital Literacy | 3 to 6 hours |
|  |  | **Total: 41 hours (34 hours minimum; other 7 hours flexible but limited to specific categories)** |

**Pros:**

* More flexibility in PoS for different majors to vary the Gen Ed requirements
* Enrollment impacts (if any) are distributed across multiple units
* No waiver/permit needed for changing History requirement

**Cons:**

**Revisiting the Proposals**

**Some Noteworthy Items:**

* All Proposals maintain 41 hours of Gen Ed, so we meet SACSCOC requirement of minimum of 30 hours
* All Proposals meet SACSCOC requirement of “at least one course from each of the following areas”:
  + Humanities/Fine Arts
  + Social/Behavioral Sciences
  + Natural Sciences/Mathematics

Regardless of proposal chosen, each of these areas has a minimum of two courses (and 6 hours) which exceeds SACSCOC minimum

* Total Gen Ed hours (41) does not change so no “new hours” must be carved out for Gen Ed
* Despite saying 3 hours/6 hours for digital literacy category, it is expected that this category will need to be populated with courses that are 1 hour, 2 hours, or 3 hours to allow flexible options in PoS (depending on choices made by specific majors).
* If we choose Proposal 2 or Proposal 3, TN Tech will need to obtain delegated authority from the Board of Trustees to exempt students from the Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-7-110 requirement (six hours of American History) if they have successfully completed an American History course in high school, as many other Tennessee universities have done.

**Summary Table**

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| Current Gen Ed Category | Current Requirements | Proposed New Name | Proposal #1 | Proposal #2 | Proposal #3 | Proposal #4 |
| Mathematics | 3 hours | *Quantitative Reasoning and Analysis* | 3 hours | Minimum: 3 hours | 3 hours | 3 hours |
| Humanities/Fine Arts | 9 hours (3 hours lit) | *Humanities and Cultural Expression* | 6 hours | Minimum: 6 hours | 6 to 9 hours | 6 to 9 hours |
| History | 6 hours | *Historical Foundations* | 6 hours | Minimum: 3 hours | 3 to 6 hours | 6 hours |
| Social Behavioral Sciences | 6 hours | *Social and Behavioral Sciences* | 6 hours | Minimum: 6 hours | 6 to 9 hours | 6 to 9 hours |
| Communication | 9 hours   * 6 hours comp * 3 hours oral comm | *Communication* | 9 hours   * 6 hours comp * 3 hours oral comm | Minimum: 6 hours   * 3 hours min., comp * 3 hours min, oral comm | 6 to 9 hours   * 3 hours min., comp * 3 hours min, oral comm | 6 to 9 hours   * 3 hours min., comp * 3 hours min, oral comm |
| Natural Sciences | 8 hours | *Scientific Reasoning* | 8 hours | Minimum: 4 hours | 4 to 8 hours | 4 to 8 hours |
|  |  | *Digital Literacy* | 3 hours | Minimum: 3 hours | 3 to 6 hours | 3 to 6 hours |
| Total Hours | **41 hours** |  | **41 hours** | **41 hours**   * **31 dictated** * **10 flexible** | **41 hours**   * **31 dictated** * **10 flexible but limited to specific categories** | **41 hours**   * **34 dictated** * **7 flexible but limited to specific categories** |